

En Route to Gettysburg
[Binder 2, p. 8-10]

DRIVER 6

Gettysburg Address

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Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

Excerpts from newspapers and
other sources illuminating
aspects of this most well-known
Presidential speech

En Route to Gettysburg

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection
(Formerly described as: Binder 2, p. 8-10)



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More About Canadian Link With Lincoln

By Senator Norman Lambert in the Winnipeg Free Press.

INTERESTED in the memoir relating to the contact of the late Hon. William McDougall with Abraham Lincoln and his presence at Gettysburg when the latter delivered his historic address, two living descendants in the McDougall family have contributed two memoranda supplying some additional information upon this subject. These memoranda have just been received by the Public Archives of Canada.

The first note is from McDougall's grandson, Douglas H. McDougall, and the second is from his nephew, F. C. L. Jones, KC, of Toronto. They confirm the story of Hon. William McDougall's visit to Washington in 1863, as related to me by the late William Houston of the Globe staff; but both add interesting and unrecorded details to it.

MR. DOUGLAS McDOUGALL, the grandson, curiously enough, heard the story from the lips of William Houston in Toronto in the same way that I did, but some six years earlier than I heard it. This is what Mr. Houston said according to the first of these recent notes:

You perhaps haven't heard the story about your grandfather and his visit to Washington, DC, when Abraham Lincoln was President. Your grandfather and Mr. Galt were sent to Washington to discuss trade relations between Canada and the United States and when they arrived there, called on the President and presented their credentials. Mr. Lincoln received them cordially but said: "I'm sorry that because of my appointments I'll be unable to take up your matter today, and tomorrow we dedicate the Battlefield of Gettysburg where I am to speak, but I expect to return to Washington tomorrow night and I will be glad to see you about your mission the day after tomorrow. However, Washington is a nice place and I have no doubt you can enjoy yourself visiting the city in the meantime."

He shook hands with them but when doing so he said: "I was just thinking that if you cared to attend the Gettysburg dedication which we think is an important event perhaps you would like to be my guests and accompany my party. We leave on this afternoon's train for Gettysburg and have arranged to stop overnight at a quiet inn near there. We could have dinner together and

will drive to the battlefield in the morning."

Your grandfather who was quite an orator himself accepted the invitation and joined Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward at the train and after arriving at the inn had dinner with them. After dinner Mr. Lincoln said: "Up in Canada I understand you have a Governor General and an Attorney General and whenever the Governor General has to make an important speech the Attorney General assists him to compose it. Now I am somewhat like your Governor General and Mr. Seward like your Attorney General and tomorrow I have to make an important speech, so I must ask you to excuse us so we can get to work on it."

In the morning after breakfast the party mounted buckboards and were driven to the battlefield. On the drive Mr. Lincoln was solemn and absorbed. He drew out the manuscript of the speech prepared the night before and read it over twice and then tore it up and threw it away with a dissatisfied air. He seemed disturbed when they reached the platform. There a large crowd assembled.

Several well-known American orators made long and florid speeches, following which Mr. Lincoln arose and made his brief but famous address.

The audience was shocked and disappointed and the contrast, because of its brevity, with the previous speeches seemed to them to be inadequate and failing to do justice to the occasion from the President of the United States.

Next morning the New York and other papers were severe in their criticism of the President's speech and your grandfather obtained copies of the speech and sent it to some English and Canadian papers and commented that it was a great masterpiece and would live long after the other speeches made on the occasion were forgotten. Only after the London Times and other foreign papers lauded the Lincoln speech did the American press change their attitude and recognize it as

a great triumph for Mr. Lincoln.

MR. JONES in his brief memo recalls that in the early 1890's his uncle, Hon. William McDougall, dined at his house in Toronto and after dinner related to the assembled guests his experience in 1863 in meeting Lincoln and hearing him speak at Gettysburg. Mr. Jones records that another Father of Confederation in the person of Hon. A. T. Galt, who went to Washington with McDougall at the same time, did not avail himself of the opportunity of going to Gettysburg but elected to remain in the capital until the President's party returned.

WHEN McDOUGALL and Mr. Galt were introduced to the President at the White House, Mr. Lincoln, in the words of Mr. Jones' memo,

... looked McDougall (who was a tall, well-built man) up and down and with a twinkle said to him "Are you a descendant of the man to whom the King said 'Lay on MacDuff and damned be he who first cries Hold! Enough!'" which led to a friendly conversation and an invitation to go with the President, Secretary Seward, and a party to Gettysburg, the same afternoon. Owing to some other engagement I recall that he said Mr. Galt could not come with them. The party was entertained at an inn near Gettysburg and after dinner the President in an affable mood talked and swapped yarns with McDougall and others until a pretty late hour when they were interrupted by Secretary Seward rather impatiently reminding the President that he must come up stairs and finish preparing the speech he was to make next day.

The reference to Seward's impatience with his leader, the President, is an authentic sidelight on Seward who was Secretary of War in Lincoln's Cabinet. He was one of a considerable number of Lincoln's contemporaries, who because of small vision and partisanship, were never able to recognize the President's great qualities.

Ottawa Journal Ottawa (Canada)
19 July 1947 "Journal" 7/19/1947

WAS WITH LINCOLN

John Hay Tells of Trip to Gettysburg, Where Immortal Address Was Made.

1876

AMONG the interesting passages in John Hay's war time diary, printed in Harper's Magazine, is Hay's vivid account of the president's visit to Gettysburg and the delivery of the famous Gettysburg address.

"On our train were the president, Seward, Usher and Blair; Nicolay and myself; Mercier and Admiral Raynaud; Bertinatti and Captain Isola, and Lieutenant Martinez; Cora and Mrs. Wise; Wayne MacVeagh; McDougal of Canada, and one or two others. We had a pleasant sort of a trip. At Baltimore Schenck's staff joined us.

"At Gettysburg the president went to Mr. Wills', who expected him, and our party broke like a drop of quicksilver spilled. MacVeagh, young Stanton and I foraged around for a while—walked out to the college, got a chafing dish of oysters, then some supper, and, finally, loafing around to the court house, where Lamson was holding a meeting of marshals, we found Forney, and went around to his place, Mr. Fannestock's, and drank a little whisky with him. He had been drinking a good deal during the day and was getting to feel a little ugly and dangerous.

"We went out after a while, following the music to hear the serenades. The president appeared at the door, said half a dozen words meaning nothing, and went in. Seward, who was staying around the corner at Harper's, was called out, and spoke so indistinctly that I did not hear a word of what he was saying. Forney and MacVeagh were still growling about Blair. We went back to Forney's room, having picked up Nicolay, and drank more whisky. Nicolay sang his little song of the "Three Thieves," and we then sang "John Brown." At last we proposed that Forney should make a speech, and two or three started out . . . to get a band to serenade him. I stayed with him; so did Stanton and MacVeagh. He still growled, quietly, and I thought he was going to do something imprudent.

"Then follows an account of the serenade and of the bitulous Forney's speech, in which in tipsy fashion he mingled drollery and gravity. Quite Shakespearean in this low-comedy interlude, coming just before the state scene of consecration.

"In the morning (of the 19th, Hay continues) I got a beast and rode out with the president and suite to the cemetery in the procession. The procession formed itself in an orphanly sort of way and moved out with very little help from anybody; and after a little delay Mr. Everett took his place on the stand, and Mr. Stockton made a prayer which thought it was an

oration; and Mr. Everett spoke as he always does, perfectly; and the president, in a firm, free way, with more grace than is his wont, said his half-dozen lines of consecration:

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

"Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation,



Abraham Lincoln.

or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.

"We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground.

"The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract.

"The world will little note, nor long remember, what we say here; but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus so far nobly advanced.

"It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

From Research notes for CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR By Bruce Catton. Huntington Library, Battles and Leaders, Extra Illustrated, Vol. X. mss. note set into front cover signed by Lincoln, Nov. 18, 1863 "William goes with me to Gettysburg." An explanatory letter of De Witt C. Morris, June, 1864, explains that William was a colored messenger in the Treasury Dept. "who occasionally acted as servant to the President; and when he set out for Gettysburgh to attend the conservation of the ground ((correct)) which covers our sleeping heroes there, he sent this card to Mr. S. Yorke H. Lee to excuse William's absence. William has since died of small pox, and the President had him buried at his expense."

E. B. Long, Director of Research.

(Andrew Long here)

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